

July 21, 2006

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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon will participate in House Agriculture Committee public field hearings Saturday and Monday to discuss current farm policy, including the potential for sugar-based ethanol as a reliable, renewable energy source.

"The need for America to become more energy-independent is clear," Congressman Melancon said. "

As we search for homegrown energy solutions, I will continue encouraging my colleagues to explore the promise sugar-based ethanol may hold for our nation's future."

The hearings will include testimony from agriculture producers about current farm policy, as the Agriculture Committee prepares to reauthorize the 2002 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill establishes federal government policies on energy, nutrition, marketing, commodity, rural development, and conservation programs.

The hearings are open to the public, although speakers will be limited to invited witnesses who will provide testimony to the committee and answer questions from Members of the Agriculture Committee. Those who are not testifying can submit written testimony to the Agriculture Committee for Committee Members to review.

What: U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture Public Field Hearing on Federal Farm Policy

When: 9:00 a.m., Sat. July 22, 2006

Where: Southwest Minnesota State University

Conference Center Ballroom

1501 State Street

Marshall, MN

What: U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture Public Field Hearing on Federal Farm Policy

When: 9:00 a.m. EDT, Monday, July 24, 2006

Where: Scottsburg High School

500 S. Gardner St.

Scottsburg, IN

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